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Remarks/Arguments

In paragraph 1 of the Action, the drawings were objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a).

In reply thereto, applicant has amended the specification so as to conform to the drawings. The original drawings, which are part of the original disclosure, clearly show square (right angled) corners in sectional views of the the square tubular portion (tubular portion with square corners in section) and, therefore, no new matter is entered by this amendment.

According to Webster's Third New International Dictionary, "square" means 1a: having four equal sides and four right angles; 1b: forming a right angle <square corner>; 2a: having a width nearly equal to the height and rectangular rather than curving outline <square cabinet>. By "square" applicant means "forming a right angle" set forth above 1b. In order to more clarify applicant's intention, the term has been defined by the amendment in conformity with the drawings.

In paragraphs 2-3 of the Action, claims 7 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

In reply thereto, applicant has amended the claims to correct the antecedent problems.

In paragraphs 4-5 of the Action, claims 1-3 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Law et al.

In reply thereto, applicant has amended the claims to define applicant's invention more clearly over the prior art of record.

As clearly defined in the amended claims, applicant's invention comprises a tubular plugging face

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including a square tubular portion having a rectangular section and a cylindrical portion having a circular section, with the circular section having a diameter greater than the height of but smaller than the width of the rectangular section and overlapping the central portion of the rectangular section, and at least one key or key groove provided on or in the cylindrical portion for preventing a plugging error to the mating connector.

With respect to the prior art, Law et al. disclose a keyed electronic interconnect device comprising an interconnect body 26 including an alignment notch 46 on each sidewall 42, 44. A recess 74 is defined in the body 26.

However, Law et al. neither disclose nor suggest any cylindrical portion having a diameter greater than the height of but smaller than the width of the square tubular portion. In fact, Law's recess 74 is defined in the rectangular body 26 and there is no cylindrical portion having a greater diameter than the height of the square tubular portion. Law's body 26 has a "roughly rectangular cross section that minimally varies over the length of the body between the leading and trailing faces." Col.3, lines 13-14.

In addition, Law's notch 46 is not provided on the cylindrical portion but each sidewall 42, 44 of the rectangular body 26.

For these reasons, it is submitted that applicant's invention recited in the amended claims is patentable over Law et al.

In paragraphs 6 of the Action, claims 4 and 6 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form

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including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In reply thereto, applicant believes that the base claim as amended is patentable so that claims 4 and 6 are in condition for allowance.

In paragraph 7 of the Action claims 7 and 8 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In reply thereto, applicant has amended the claims as set forth above with respect to claims 7 and 8 and the base claim has been amended so as to be patentable as set forth above with respect to claims 1-3 and 5 and, therefore, it is submitted that claims 7 and 8 are now in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that this application be reconsidered, claims 1-8 allowed, and the case passed to issue.

A change of correspondence address was filed on August 12, 2004.

Respectfully submitted,
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